

Remarks/Arguments

In an effort to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 4 have been revised to incorporate the subject matter of claims 2 and 5, respectively. In addition, claims 1 and 4 have been revised to clarify that the sensors disposed on base ends of the tines enable the detection of whether a reticle is properly positioned relative to the tines, and that the alarm generates an alarm signal when the position sensors detect a reticle on the fork arm that is improperly positioned relative to the tines of the fork arm.

It is noted that the following rejections have been rendered moot in view of the aforementioned amendments to claims 1 and 4:

The rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nakahara et al. in view of Swanson et al.

The rejection of claims 1 and 4 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nakahara et al. in view of Genov.

The rejection of claims 3 and 6 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nakahara et al. in view of Genov and Swanson et al.

Claims 2 and 5 (now canceled) were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Nakahara et al. in view of Swanson et al. or Genov, and further in view of Johanson et al. or Holbrooks. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons already of record. In addition, Applicants respectfully contend that neither Johanson et al. nor Holbrooks would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to equip a reticle transfer system with sensors disposed on base ends of tines so as to enable the detection of whether a reticle is properly positioned relative to the tines, and with an alarm that generates an alarm signal when the position sensors detect a

reticle on the fork arm that is improperly positioned relative to the tines of the fork arm.

No other issues remaining, reconsideration and favorable action upon the claims now pending in the application are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam C. Volentine', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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